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Message Text

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20
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 EUR-25 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

DRC-01 FEA-02 SCI-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 /140 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8017

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USIAC

DEPT FOR AF/C

USIA FOR IAA, IOP/MR, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: ELIMA CRITICIZES ARABS FOR SELLING OIL TO AFRICANS
AT SAME PRICE AS THAT FOR "IMPERIALISTS"

1. SMALL CRACK IN PUBLIC WALL OF ZAIRE-ARAB SOLIDARITY SURFACED IN JUNE 4 EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED KINSHASA DAILY ELIMA. APPEARING IN PAPER'S MOST "OFFICIAL" COLUMN, "SUR LE POINT," USUALLY WRITTEN BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ESSOLOMWA OR TOP ASSISTANT, STORY CALLS HIGH PRICE OF ARAB OIL FOR AFRICAN NATIONS AN "INSUPPORTABLE BLOW."

2. SOME PEOPLE, SAYS ARTICLE, "EVEN CONSIDER THIS ATTITUDE TREASONOUS IN VIEW OF THE SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR THE ARAB CAUSE IN THE MIDEAST WAR."

3. IN ONLY ANTI-ARAB LANGUAGE IN PAST SEVEN MONTHS,
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EDITIORIAL CHARGES THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SUPPORT,

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"THE AFRICAN STATES HAVE REAPED DECEPTION.
THEY HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING AT ALL THAT COULD PLACE
THEM IN A PRIVILEGED POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE PRICE
OF ARAB OIL. THE ARABS HAVE EVERYTHING TO GAIN BY
NOT ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO FLOUNDER IN UNGRACIOUS
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SOLIDARITY WHICH THE AFRICAN
COUNTRIES HAVE MANIFESTED. (THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES)
HAVE THE RIGHT, FOR HUMANITARIAN MOTIVES, TO A LITTLE
RECOGNITION ON THE PART OF THEIR ARAB PARTNERS."
(N.B. LITANY IN MEDIA PRIOR TO THIS MOMENT HAS
CONSISTENTLY BEEN ARAB "BROTHERS".)

4. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH "HOPE THAT THE UPCOMING
ARAB-AFRICAN SUMMIT MEETING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE
IN KINSHASA WILL PRODUCE A COMPROMISE AND THAT THE
ARAB OIL PRODUCERS WILL UNDERSTAND THEIR ERROR AND
WILL REVISE THEIR PRESENT ECONOMIC POLICY CONCERNING
PETROLEUM AND THE AFRICAN NATIONS."

5. COMMENT: THIS STORY, COUPLED WITH RECENT
PIECE IN ZAIRE MAGAINE CALLING MAALOT MASSACRE
"UNJUSTIFIED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES," (SEE KINSHASA
4902) ARE FIRST PUBLIC CRITICISMS OF ARAB CAUSE IN ZAIRIAN
MEDIA SINCE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER WAR. FAR FROM
BEING CONSTRUED AS ANY KIND OF A TREND, THEY DO INDICATE
SOME DISSATISFACTION, ON BOTH SELF-INTEREST ECONOMIC
GROUNDS AND IN TERMS OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS,
WITH RECENT ARAB BEHAVIOR THAT TARNISHES SOMEWHAT
THE ALLEGEDLY SPARKLING ARAB IMAGE PRESENTED DURING
PAST HALF-YEAR IN THE ZAIRIAN MEDIA.
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